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ABSTRACT

This student magazine, created by the English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes of a local unit of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) is a collection of personal opinions, reports, and creative writing with illustrations. Compositions are by both individual students and groups. Selections include the account of a field trip, individual reports, opinions on daily activities and personal experiences, recipes, descriptions of native countries and immigration experiences, and a personal letter. (MSE) (Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse on Literacy Education)

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"We've Come A Long Way Baby"

A Student Created Magazine

By The ESL Classes of Local 155 ILGWU

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MY TRIP TO GREAT FALLS

MAY 6, 1989

We gathered with our group outside the building at 519 8th Avenue to go on a tour of Great Falls, that historic landmark which is located in Paterson, New Jersey, at 65 Mc Bribe Ave., 07501.

We left N.Y.C. after 9:30 AM because everybody enjoyed a small breakfast. After breakfast everybody took their cars to take the route to New Jersey. That historic place is located almost 21 miles out of New York City.

Well, we are out of the house watching the guides coming. Then they gave us a speech on what we were going to see as a group in the house.

There was a lady telling us that she was a granddaughter of the man who owned the house. She said that the house was built in 1907 and they moved in 1908. She also said that the house cost at that time was $4250.00.

First, we went to a room to watch a film about a meeting out of this house where about 23,000 people gathered outside. Our group saw how these people used their skill to build a big and better village. Many people were gathered from Italy, England and other countries which I don't remember, to work. After the film we were taken to look and to understand the knowledge of those people.

I saw a Singer machine which was very, very thin from the body which was built in this town, Paterson, in the year 1870. I also sw another machine. This machine was built in 1910; those machines are still in good condition. I also saw a scale model of a village of the Irish people. The toilets of this village were built in the backyard, not in the house itself. They also had another door which they used whenever they had dirty shoes. This door was built right next to the main entrance, and used especially during the winter time, when it was muddy outside.

We also say from this house, kitchen tools, the kitchen's stove, four different grinders, one for peppers, for cheese, for coffee and for meat. We saw the cradle in which the granddaughter of the owner's house slept in when she was a baby. By the way, she is still alive.

We saw how they made wine and how they close the wine bottles with corks. Now I know that 30 pounds of grapes makes one gallon of wine.

I took a few pictures and then we left the historic house and we drove our cars to Great Falls. We were watching the Falls fall and we also saw a beautiful rainbow. The water runs strongly, about 60 miles per hour. The width of the river is about 280 feet by 70 feet high. On this river, the submarine was first tried. The submarine was built right here in the United States in the years 1818 - 1821 by a Paterson school teacher named John P. Holland.

My Trip to Great Falls (cont'd.)

After the Falls, we went to the tour office to watch a film about the Triangle Fire, that happened in a factory in New York City in the year 1911. The fire started on the 8th floor. On the 9th floor they had no exit. On the 10th floor lots of people died. Those poeple on the 6th floor tried to leap from the fire. The firemen found bodies in the basement and on the sidewalks. Lots of people were jumping through the windows. The total of deaths was 146 people. Also at the historic landmark there is place which built 100 locomotives for Panama.

Jose Fernandez

Across the Bridge

THE UNION DELEGATE

Mr. Israel Camacho is a Business Agent and Delegate to the I.L.G.W.U. Local 155 Knitgoods Workers Union in Brooklyn.

He is a Puerto Rican American. He is a former athlete who likes music and is an excellent salsa and merengue dancer.

He likes people and is friendly with workers for over 20 years of service.

Mr. Camacho defends the rights of workers organizing strikes, negotiating salaries, contracts, workers compensation, vacation and holidays are the jobs he does. Medical benefits including dental, optical, drug plans and hospitalization are controlled by his office.

Union workers enroll in an education sponsored by the local.

He sends letters to union members inviting them to school and organizes a local Christmas party.

Mr. Camacho is dedicated to the union cause.

Group composition by Gerry's class

MRS. RAMONITA GUZMAN

She is a business agent and organizer. She is an administrator for the Adult Evening Education Program. Ramonita is a delegate to the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.
Ms. Guzman has over 25 years of service to the Union. She is a
very compassionate person who is dedicated to helping people with
their work problems. As a member of the Executive Board of Local 155, she attends meetings to discuss the labor issues. She organizes strikes and stays on the picket lines until the employer and workers reach an agreement.

Mrs. Ramonita Guzman was born in Puerto Rico. In 1988, she received the Damas Boricuas Award for community serivce. She is highly respected in the union and in the community.

Group composition by Gerry's class

ASPIRE TO SUCCESS IN THE U.S.A.

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT LISTENING TO MYSELF ON THE TAPE RECORDER?

I feel happy because I can see that is the way to work all together on it. Everyone can hear their own wrong pronunciation, and we can learn how to write and how to speak.

Vincente Martinez

When I listened to myself for the first time, I felt so nervous because I was afraid to be wrong on my pronuncation.

Then day by day we read more and more and now when I listen, I feel I can hear the wrong pronuncation and I like that because this means I am learning more and more.

Catalina Marquez

When listening to myself on the tape recorder, I felt very well because my companions corrected some words and we listened to the clearly pronounded words.

Victor Robalino

When I listening to myself on the taperecorder, I feel a little nervous, but I like it.

Falia Delgado

I am happy because I listen to my mistakes. Sometimes I can't read some words. I can't speak clearly. For me it is very complicated, but I like it.

Maria Fernandez

Well, I think it's important to me and the other students. For example, if I read something in a paragraph, I can hear my voice two or three times. Then, my classmates go to the blackboard and write the words that I said wrong. If we continue with this practice, I hope that in a short time we will talk better and feel O.K.

Peter Plaza

Well, I feel O.K. because I can hear my own voice and correct my own mistakes. When I listen to the sound of the sentence and the pronunciation, I try to do it better next time. It is not easy, but is the way to learn and change right now.

Jose G. Fernandez

When I am listening to myself on the tape recorder, I feel glad, because I am listening to my pronuncation a little better I hope. I'm trying to do more and much better.

Rebeca Cuesta

Music Unites Nations With Love

ROMANTIC

Hot music makes me a little sad and also makes me remember some good times and I remember some people who listened with me to that music.

That song makes me remember one place in my country and also I remember the time when I saw the men who sing in Vardo city. I felt happy.

I like to hear music anytime.

When I hear the merengue music, this makes me feel happy, then I want to dance.

Maria Catalina Marquez

When I listen to that music is when I feel happy. Sometimes I feel sad. I remember my family in my country and the people I miss.

Maria Hernandez

What does this music make you think about?

This music makes me feel sentimental, sometimes. I remember when I was 20 years old. I heard this music with my friends so now I remember my good times and when I listen to this music I like to drink some beers and I feel well. Then the music stops and I am O.K. I just listen to the music for about 15 or 30 minutes, not much. That is what I think.

Jose G. Fernandez

I think the Mexican music I listened to on Jose's casette is romantic music. Sometimes I feel sad because I remember when I was twenty years old. My husband sang these songs in those times. I felt happy because we loved each other but now I feel sad because he is dead.

Martha Gonzales

I like all kinds of music: salsa, cumbia, merengue. When listening to the music. I feel very well. I want to dance. The music is very good for listening to at all moments.

Victor Robalino

That kind of romantic music makes me felt happy and excited because I remember a lot of good things.

Jalina Delgado

This kind of music makes me feel romantic and sentimental too.

This kind of music is a must for love, because nore kind these songs tell the truth. I remember when I was 18 years old my friend sang this romantic song.

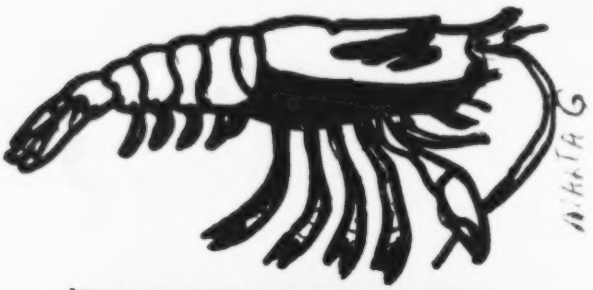
Rebeca Cuesta

Peter and Mary are going to lunch at McDonald's. Mary is not going to eat French fries because they have a lot of calories. She is on a diet. Peter is getting a Big Mac, french fries and a chocolate shake.

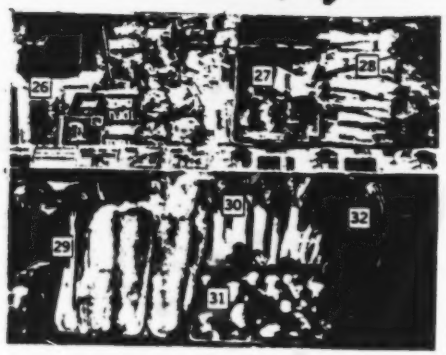
Group Composition by Zena's Class

VEGETABLES AND SKIM MILK

Juan and Susan are doctors. They work in a hospital and are very good friends. They always eat a snack together. Susan and Juan are on a diet. They usually have pizza, but it has a lot of calories. So today they are getting vegetables and skim milk.



Group Composition by Zena's Class



SHRIMP CEVICHE

INGREDIENTS

Shrimp_____2 pounds, medium
Onion_____1/2 pound of fresh onion
Tomato_____1 pound, sliced
Lemon juice_____1/4 cup lemon juice
Parsley ___ a few pieces
Hot pepper ____ 2 or 3 small

Victor Robalino

VEGETABLE SOUP

1 17 oz. can whole kernel corn (with liquid)
1 cup diced carrots
1 cup diced celery
2 tablespoons minced onion
2 potatoes, sliced
1 46 oz. can tomato juice
2 tablespoons butter
3 cups water
2 teaspoons sugar
salt and pepper to taste
1 10 oz. package frozen peas

In a stock pot combine all ingredients except peas. Bring to a boil reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 45 minutes. Add peas and simmer an additional 3-5 minutes.

Mrs. Maria E. Fernandez

FORBIDDEN LOVE PUNCH

PUNCH OF MILK AND EGGS
(Forbidden Love)

1 glass of milk
1 egg
1 small cup of rum or whisky as a preserved
1 teaspoon of powdered cinamon
1 or 2 drops of vanilla (optional)
2 tablespoons of sugar or honey
add ice

Put all these things into the mixer and blend. Drink!

Falia Delgado

BREAKFAST

I eat breakfast every day, just a corn muffin and a cup of coffee. That's from Monday to Friday.

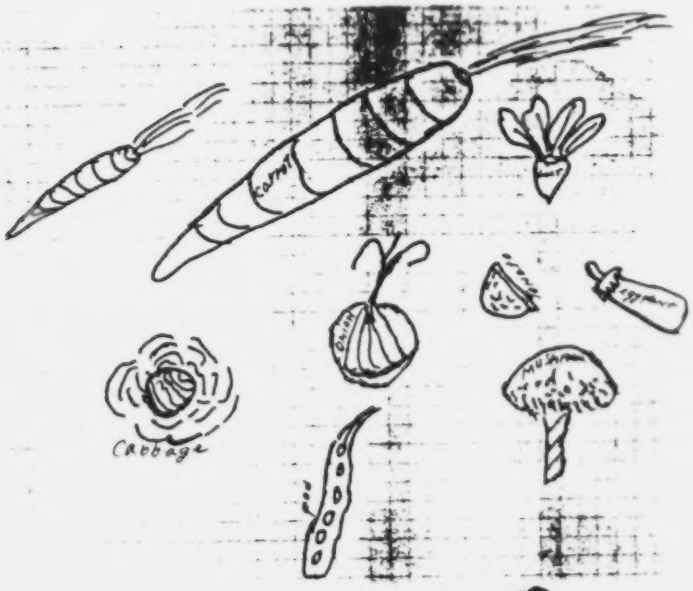
Saturday and Sunday is very different. I cook three eggs, sometimes I want them fried or scrambled. Also if I have rice, I open a can of tuna fish and squeeze the water out and put it with the rice. I also eat Italian bread and a cup of regular coffee, with two spoons of sugar and I drink a glass of orange juice.

Casimiro Leal

WHAT I EAT FOR BREAKFAST

Usually I have one small glass of juice, toast with butter and cheese, and one cup of coffee. Sometimes I have a hot sandwich. I take two slices of bread with butter and add two slices of American Cheese and then put them in a toaster oven. I eat this with coffee or tea.

Rebeca



SALVADORIAN GUACAMOLE

For 4 people

2 big avocados
4 hard boiled eggs
2 teaspoons olive oil
1 onion red, sliced
1 teaspoon salt

Carmen

MAKE A RECIPE ABOUT FOOD

First peel the ripe bananas, then open them in the middle with a knife and put butter and cinnamon sticks inside to give it flavor. Also add water or milk to avoid burning the banana. Add sugar, and then put it all together in the casserole. Cover with the top and cook about 10 minutes, but don't forget to add a little water to avoid burning.

Enjoy this kind of food.

Jose G. Fernandez

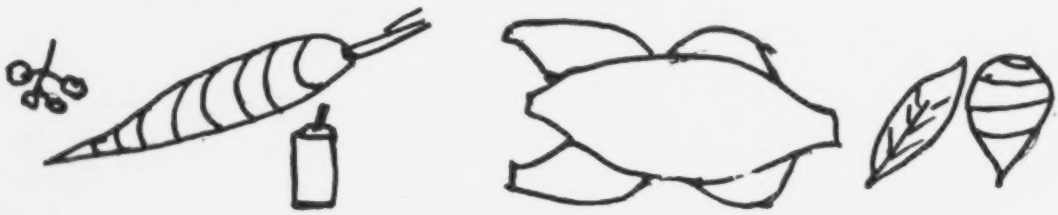
CHICKEN CABBAGE LOAF

Make the dough for the loaf covering.

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 pounds of flour
1/2 pound of margarine
2 eggs and 1 juice of lemon
1/2 spoon of baking powder

Combine ingredients until dough is pliable.
Leave for 15 minutes, then roll out dough to a 12 inch square.
Prepare vegetable and chicken filling.



INGREDIENTS

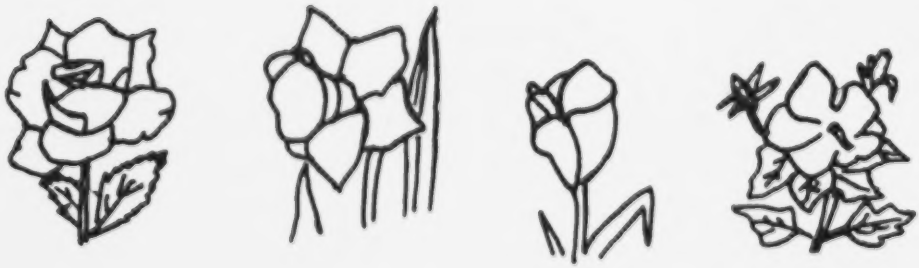
1. One small head of cabbage: cut the cabbage very thin and cook with onions and salt.
2. One Perdue chicken: its better to cook with one slice of onion, tomato, green pepper, black pepper, garlic and salt, and whatever you like. Cook more than one hour, until it has three cups of gravy. Take the chicken out and cut into slices. Then boil with two cups of gravy for 5 minutes, keep one cup of the gravy.
3. 1/2 cup of carrots and 1/2 cup of peas: cook with onion and salt.
4. 2 sliced hard boiled eggs.

Arrange the vegetables in the center of the dough.
Begin with cabbage, after it has been throughly squeezed.
Then add a layer of chicken and another one of cabbage. Fold the combined loaf over until the 2 ends of the dough overlap on the right and left sides. Then fold over each end.

Bake loaf for 1 hour at 350 degrees, until golden brown. Remove loaf from oven. Put a cup of gravy in a pan and add a table- spoon of margarine and a half cup of milk. Pour over the loaf and place the entire pan on top of a stove burner on a low flame. Ladle the liquid over the loaf periodically for 15 minutes.
This recipe is for ten people. Serve hot, sliced to eat.

MY COUNTRY AND THE U.S.A.

My country is beautiful in all the aspects that are encountered in the tropics and the Equator. Because of the climate, everything that grows on the earth can grow in Columbia. The landscapes are beautiful. There are graceful valleys, cool plateaus and spectacular mountains.



The water power is fabulous. We have two oceans which facilitates maritime activities with North America, Asia Europe and Africa. Tourists are attracted to the clean, pretty beaches.

We have achieved a high level of education and culture, but all this seems to be overshadowed by our unfortunate reputation for drugs. In reality the majority of drug trafficking is controlled by non-Colombians. Unemployment is to be blamed for this injustice held over Colombia.

Instead of associating only crooks with Colombia, other nations should consider the truly good and beautiful things we have to offer such as the most lovely and varied orchids, the most wonderful shades of roses, lilies and jasmines. Let's not forget to mention the thousand and one varieties of delicious fruits, and the freshest, most delicious vegetables. Because it enjoys eternal spring, Columbia is the garden of the Americas.

In the U.S.A. to operate machines requires us to act like machines. Jobs and careers proceed at a frantic pace. There is no peace here.

Nelly Stella Clavijo

MY BELOVED COUNTRY

I am South American. My country is Colombia and my city is Barranquilla. The city is bordered by the sea on the north and west. The Magdalena River is to the east and south. The city has one million inhabitants. It contains many houses, tall buildings and two stadiums. The temperature remains at 80 degrees all year.

Jaime Tesillo

The Shao Family in Flushing park.

邵玉山和他的家人在法拉盛公园。

GREATMAN

Javier Perez de Cuellar is a grand gentleman because he is looking for the peace in the world. He did stop the war between Iran and Iraq and it is possible he will get peace. Then he will be brave "Caballero".

Victor Robalino

COLORES

The rose is pink. The blood is red.
The sea is blue. The chalk is white.
The gold is yellow. The leaves are green.
The violet is the flower. The orange is the lime?

Victor Robalino

INSIDE A DEPARTMENT STORE

There are many things inside a department store. On the first floor there are women's sweaters and blouses.
On the second floor there is men's clothing. On the third floor there are toys and children's clothing.

A salesman is selling doll and other toys. A mother and her daughter are heading for the exit. A young man and woman are riding up the escalator.

Today there is a big sale fifty percent off everything.

Group Composition by Zena's Class

My Dear Sister,

I hope this letter finds you, your husband, and your children in good health. As for me, my children and I are in good health. However my daily routine is very tiring. I'm feeling tense. I wake up at 5:30 a.m., prepare breakfast, and dress the children for school. At 6:30 I leave the house to go to work because work starts at 7 o'clock .

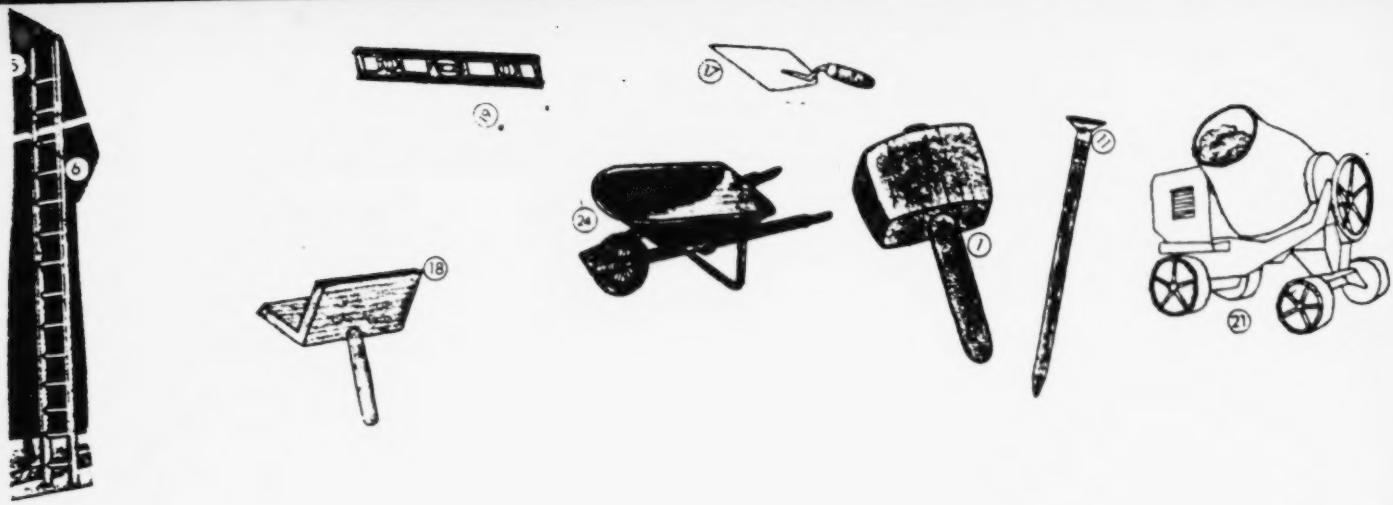
I finish work at 3:30 p.m. As soon as I get home I start to cook I feed the children and then help them with their homework. Afterwards I bath them.

On Mondays and Wednesdays I go to English class at the union local 155. I do that because the English language is very important. So now you know my routine from Monday to Friday.

Well, my dear sister, now I have told you a little about how things are for me in this country. I hope you will also tell me a little about your husband, your children, and the economic situation in Ecuador.

I'll close with a big hug and kiss from us.

Your sister, who misses you very much,
America



These tools are

1 mallet
5 ladder
11 nail
17 trowel
18 hod
19 level
21 cement mixer
24 wheelbarrow

HEAVY TOOLS

I work for a construction company, but I don't like it. Sometimes my manager tells me, "Don't come back here tomorrow. You are going to this address to work over there." But I don't like that because I have to carry my tools to wherever I am working. It's a big problem for me to move to another job site because my tools are heavy.

Juan Dominguez

LOCAL 155, I.L.G.W.U.

Norman Lewis, Manager-Secretary
May 23, 1989

The Constitution of the United States adopted as of June 21, 1788, was created and composed by the people, and for the people; provided basic inalienable rights for all. It is a strong legal document designed to protect the fundamental rights of a person or group of persons. The concept of Constitutional Rights awareness was then, and is now, a principle offering an individual or group of individuals empowerment by knowledge of one's rights.

Contractual Rights, the terms and conditions under which you work, are strongly similar to Constitutional Rights.

It provides for, when and how much wage increase a worker earns, how many paid holidays you receive, how long your vacation should be, under what health and safety conditions you are protected by, the basic right of every member to have job security and an arbitration clause to protect and enforce your contractual rights. The above items make up a workers contractual Bill of Rights.

The combination of the National Labor Relations Board and the federal courts, is equivalent to the Supreme Court of Labor in protecting the Bill of Rights of union workers.

If you were not being paid your correct wages,
What would you do?

If you were denied payment for an entitled holiday,
What would you do?

If your vacation was not paid to you,
What would you do?

If you were forced to work under unsafe conditions,
What could you do?

If your health was endangered by your work environment,
What could you do?

If you were unjustly fired from your job,
What would you do?

If you were denied any entitled benefit,
What should you do?

If you felt that you suffered any grievance whatsoever,
What should you do?

If your union is unable to have your rights honored,
What could the union do?

If the union does not safeguard your contractual rights,
What could you do?

Remember, the enforcement of empowerment initially is in your hands!

Dear Students,

It has always been a pleasure to be part of Local 155's Educational Program. I have never met such determined and spirited students. This year has been an especially rewarding one because of the emphasis on the students actively directing their own learning experience. It has been sheer joy watching the students gain in their confidence and authority as they took more control of their educational destiny. This has also been a rewarding year because of the positive student response to such media as tape recorders and video taping. I wish all of you a happy and healthy summer and hope to see you back next year.

With warmest regards,

Bob Himmelstein

When I first came to Local 155, I was very nervous. My students had just learned that their favorite teacher would not be returning. Their disappointment at seeing me was obvious, and I felt wounded by it. How would I ever create a warm learning environment under such adverse conditions? I froze.

Now, seven months later, I think fondly of all the time we have spent struggling with grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. I love the diversity of interests and talents of our group, and their willingness to help each other learn. Their dedication to learning and appreciation of the opportunities they have been given to do so have resulted in tremendous progress in the language of these United States.

I'm glad I thawed out and decided to stay.

Zena Narod

ILGWU

Worker-Family Education Program

WORKER-FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM STAFF

TRACY GROSS
DIRECTOR

SONIA FIGUEROA
ADMINISTRATOR

DEIDRE FREEMAN
CURRICULUM DEVELOPER

MAUREEN LAMAR
INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITATOR